

A Woman's Voice:

The Music of Women Composers in Jazz



featuring works by Maria Schneider, Melba Liston, Elaine Elias,
Pamela Watson, Ann Ronell, Julla Brav,
and Estonian Guest Vocalist Kadri Voorand

with the
**Princeton University
Concert Jazz Ensemble
& Jazz Composers Collective**

directed by
Anthony D.J. Branker

*Sunday,
March 2, 2008
at 3:00 pm*

**Richardson Auditorium
in Alexander Hall
Princeton University**



Program

Jazz Composers Collective

Cat Dance	Julia Brav
Falling Feather	Julia Brav
Heliocentric	Julia Brav
Tähtede Keskel (In the Middle of Stars).....	Kadri Voorand with <i>Kadri Voorand</i>
Who Am I?	Kadri Voorand with <i>Kadri Voorand</i>
Let's Fall in Love in May	Kadri Voorand with <i>Kadri Voorand</i>

intermission

Concert Jazz Ensemble

Ms. B.C	Pamela Baskin Watson arr. Bobby Watson
Tone Poem	Melba Liston
The Time is Now	Eliane Elias with <i>Kadri Voorand</i> arr. Bob Brookmeyer
Tunne Kajab (Echo of the Feeling)	Kadri Voorand with <i>Kadri Voorand</i>
Willow Weep for Me	Ann Ronell with <i>Kadri Voorand</i> arr. Matt Harris
Dance You Monster to My Soft Song	Maria Schneider

JAZZ COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE

Robbie Spackey – alto saxophone
Ben Wasserman – tenor saxophone
Anand Krishnamurthy – guitar
Julia Brav – piano
Allison Wood – bass
Will Kain – drums

CONCERT JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Saxophones

alto 1: Stephen Hammer
alto 2: Alex Bourque
tenor 1: Robert W. Enoch
tenor 2: Andrew Huelsenbeck
baritone: Richa Gawande

Trombones

lead: Matt Rich
2nd: Mark Nagy
3rd: Mia Tsui
4th: Daniel Jaffe

Trumpets

lead: Andrew Sowa
2nd: Joseph Codega
3rd: Peter Ketchum-Colwill
4th: Will Livengood

Rhythm Section

piano: Julia Brav
Daniel Berry
guitar: Zack Wieder
bass: Allison Wood
Dean Reynolds
drums: Tyler Pines

Tonight's Performers

Kadri Voorand is a 21 year-old singer from Estonia who is already recognized as one of the country's top jazz vocalists. She has been involved with a variety of musical traditions and has studied classical piano for eleven years, appeared as vocalist with classical choirs, has sung and danced in the folk music tradition, and has played folk music on violin. After singing in a rock-blues band at the age of sixteen, Kadri developed a strong desire to sing and study jazz. Currently, she is in her third year at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre in Tallinn where she studied jazz performance and composition with Professor Anthony Branker during his residency in 2005.

Kadri has taken part in numerous vocal competitions and has not only received several awards for her singing ability, but has also been awarded prizes for her work as an arranger for vocal groups. She was the winner of Estonia's national jazz singing competition "Rainbow Jazz" and finished among the top vocalists at international jazz competitions in Finland ("Lady Summertime") and at the international "Nomme Jazz" competition. In addition, she has been the music director and awarding-winning arranger for the a capella vocal group *Sheikid*, which has also received several performance prizes and has appeared in concert with Estonia's Youth Symphony Orchestra.

In 2006, Kadri was involved in the Thelonious Monk Music Project and performed at the Estonian International Jazz Festival "Jazzkaar" with some of the country's top jazz musicians. In addition, she was also featured at the "Ladies in Jazz" Festival performing unique interpretations and arrangements of jazz standards as part of the project "On Top of the Head." As an extension of that project, Kadri has performed at the Nardis Jazz Club in Istanbul, Turkey. Ms. Voorand was also featured in several concert performances with the Princeton University Jazz Composers Collective during the group's 2006 tour to Estonia. This is Kadri's second visit to the United States, which is being made possible thanks to a grant from the Department of State of the United States of America and support from the U.S. Embassy in Estonia and the Princeton University Jazz Program.

Julia Brav is a music major and a member of the certificate program in musical performance at Princeton University and has been a member of the university jazz program since she was a junior in high school. She was recently selected to the International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE) Sisters in Jazz Collegiate All-Star Quintet and performed with the group at the IAJE 35th Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada from January 9-13, 2008. This was Julia's second major international recognition in jazz performance this year. In May she was named winner of "Outstanding Performance" honors in the "Best College Jazz Soloist" category in *Down Beat* magazine's 30th Annual Student Music Awards Competition.

Julia was also the featured soloist in joint concert at McCarter Theatre in Princeton with the Juilliard Jazz Orchestra, directed by Wycliffe Gordon, and the Princeton University Concert Jazz Ensemble performing Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's "Far East Suite." In addition, she was twice selected to the New Jersey-IAJE Intercollegiate Big Band and has performed with a quartet at the "Women in Jazz" Festival in Trenton, New Jersey. While still in high school, Julia was a member of our Afro-Groove Ensemble and performed with that group at the 4th Annual North Texas Jazz Festival in Addison, Texas.

Julia has also performed and recorded with Princeton's Jazz Composers Collective and traveled to Estonia in the fall of 2006 for a series of concerts sponsored by the Department of State of the United States of America, the U.S. Embassy in Estonia, and the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. Her original music was featured in performance at the Estonian Academy of Music, the Geneva Night Club in the city of Narva, which was recorded for broadcast on Estonian National Radio, and at Theatre No. 99 in Tallinn. Her composition "Il Mago" can be found on the group's most recent CD release *Expanding Horizons*.

Princeton University Jazz Program

Throughout the years, the **Princeton University Jazz Program** under the direction of **Anthony D.J. Branker** has sought to educate and expose the university community to the artistic and historical significance of jazz by presenting artists and repertoire that are representative of the wide spectrum of styles and conceptual approaches found throughout the music's evolution. Students involved in jazz performance have numerous opportunities to concertize, participate in master classes, study privately, and to pursue independent projects. They also have the opportunity to participate in academic courses from the music department curriculum that encourage the study of the historical, social, theoretical, stylistic, and creative issues that pertain to the jazz idiom. Princeton's jazz program, in partnership with the Princeton Public Library, was the proud recipient of a 2006-2007 **Looking At: Jazz, America's Art Form** grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities** in collaboration with **Jazz at Lincoln Center, the American Library Association** and **Re: New Media**. The *Looking At: Jazz* project series was dedicated to exploring the cultural and social history of jazz through the presentation of six compelling documentary films, accompanied by viewing and discussion programs, essays by eminent scholars, and live performances for the community that featured the Princeton University Concert Jazz Ensemble, Swingtet, and Afro-Latin Ensemble.

Presently, the ensemble program features one 17-piece big band and an ever

changing variety of small groups, which have included Jazz Composers Collective, Wayne Shorter Ensemble, Crossing Borders Improvisational Music Ensemble, Afro-Latin Ensemble, Jazz Messengers Ensemble, Ornette Coleman Ensemble, Swingtet, Fusion Ensemble, Ellington/Strayhorn Ensemble, Afro-Groove Ensemble, John Coltrane Ensemble, Horace Silver Ensemble, Ensemble X, New Orleans Ensemble, Jazz Saxophone Quartet, Art Blakey Ensemble, Avant Garde Ensemble, Miles Davis Ensemble, Monk/Mingus Ensemble, Hard Bop Ensemble, Jazztet, and the Jazz Vespers Ensemble. Qualified students have the opportunity to pursue further studies in jazz performance through the Music Department's *Certificate Program in Musical Performance*.

In an effort to provide ensemble members with the opportunity to learn from recognized jazz masters, Princeton's national award-winning jazz program has been fortunate to sponsor master class residencies and feature its ensembles in concert performances with such internationally renowned jazz artists as *Clark Terry, Phil Woods, Slide Hampton, Jimmy Heath, Jon Faddis, Conrad Herwig, Oliver Lake, Frank Foster, Benny Carter, Ted Curson, Stanley Jordan, Bobby Watson, Terence Blanchard, Bob Mintzer, Ralph Peterson, Steve Nelson, Antonio Hart, Don Braden, Jacky Terrasson, Jonny King, Walt Weiskopf, Valery Ponomarev, Bryan Carrott, Michael Philip Mossman, Rick Margitza, Ralph Bowen, Mark Gross, Clifford Adams, Jeffery Smith, Guilherme Franco, Renato Thoms, and Winston Byrd*. The program has also been fortunate to feature *Dr. Billy Taylor, Victor Lewis, Bill Frisell, Fred Hersch, Roy Hargrove, Hugh Masekela, James Williams, Craig Handy, Jeremy Pelt, Gene Bertoncini, Jim Black, Bruce Williams, and Wilson "Willie Tee" Turbinton* as guest lecturers in master class situations.

Over the years, the award-winning **Concert Jazz Ensemble** has dedicated itself to the performance of the historically significant music of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. They have presented such works as: **The Far East Suite** with the Juilliard Jazz Orchestra; Ellington's extended orchestral composition, **A Tone Parallel to Harlem** with the Delaware Valley Philharmonic Orchestra and the Princeton University Orchestra; **New World A Comin'** with the Princeton University Orchestra; **The Sacred Concert Music of Duke Ellington** with the Princeton University Chapel Choir as well as with the University Glee Club and Gospel Ensemble; the all-Strayhorn program of big band music entitled, **A Lush Life: The Music of Billy Strayhorn**; as well as the Ellington/Strayhorn collaborative adaptation of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's **Nutcracker Suite** and Edvard Grieg's **Peer Gynt Suites Nos. 1 & 2**. The **Concert Jazz Ensemble** has also been proud to present a number of concerts devoted to the works of guest composers. Such programs have focused on the music of Jimmy Heath, Frank Foster, Slide Hampton, Bob Mintzer, Oliver Lake, Michael Philip Mossman, Bobby Watson, Ralph Bowen, Conrad Herwig, Ted Curson, Ralph Peterson, Jonny King and Walt Weiskopf.

Princeton offers a number of outstanding jazz performance groups. The **University Jazz Composers Collective** recently traveled to **Estonia** for a series of concerts sponsored by the **Department of State of the United States of America, the U.S. Embassy in Estonia, and the Estonian Academy of Music**. The ensemble presented three concerts, including a performance at the Estonian Academy of Music in Tallinn, where they premiered *The Eesti Jazz Suite* composed

by the group's director, **Anthony D.J. Branker** during his fall 2005 residency as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar and visiting professor of music at the academy of music. The University Jazz Composers Collective also gave performances at the Geneva Night Club in the city of Narva, which was recorded for broadcast on **Estonian National Radio**, and at Theatre No. 99 in Tallinn where they featured two sets of original music created by students in the ensemble and were joined by Estonian jazz vocalist Kadri Voorand and guitarist Jaak Sooäär, chair of the jazz department at the academy of music. The Jazz Composers Collective was also featured in performance on **Estonian National Television (ETV)**. In addition, the **University Jazz Composers Collective** will travel to **Hong Kong, China** for a series of performances in March of 2008.

In 1999, the **University Monk/Mingus Ensemble** was named winner of *Down Beat* magazine's Student Music Award for "**Best College Jazz Instrumental Group**" and **Ensemble X** was selected by *Down Beat* as the winner of "**Outstanding Performance**" honors in the jazz instrumental group category in 2003. The jazz program received its third national prize from *Down Beat* in 2007 when pianist **Julia Brav** was awarded "**Outstanding Performance**" honors in the "**Best College Jazz Soloist**" category. In addition, **Ms. Brav** was selected to the **International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE) Sisters in Jazz Collegiate All-Star Quintet** and performed with the group at the IAJE 35th Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada from January 9-13, 2008.

The **University Concert Jazz Ensemble** has been featured in performance at the International Association for Jazz Education International Conference in Washington, D.C., the National Endowment for the Humanities Paul Robeson Institute at Rutgers University, *Down Beat* MusicFest U.S.A. National Finals (Oakland, California), and has received numerous awards at intercollegiate jazz festivals held at the University of Notre Dame, Villanova University, and Rowan (Glassboro) University. In addition, several students from the Concert Jazz Ensemble were named winners of prestigious "**Outstanding Soloist**" awards at *Down Beat's* Musicfest U.S.A. National Finals and at the Notre Dame Intercollegiate Jazz Festival. The **University Afro-Groove Ensemble** was featured at the 2004 New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA) State Conference and at the 4th Annual North Texas Jazz Festival with two members of the group receiving "**Outstanding Soloist**" awards. Recently, composition graduate student **Randy Bauer** was named the recipient of an **Honorable Mention Award** in the **2004-2005 ASCAP Foundation Young Jazz Composers Award Competition** for his composition, "*Wide-Eyed Wonder*." This work was created thanks to a commission from The Commission Project and was premiered by the **University Concert Jazz Ensemble** in 2003. In addition, the **University Jazztet** has performed at the Trenton2Nite Women in Jazz Festival, the Princeton JazzFest Jazz Festival, as well as for numerous Jazz-in-the-Schools programs in the greater Princeton area.

Princeton's jazz program has also produced ten recording projects over the past eighteen years, which include *Expanding Horizons* (Jazz Composers Collective), *Yesternow: The Princeton University Jazz Program 1989-2004 compilation CD*, *It's All About the Groove (Afro-Groove Ensemble & Fusion Ensemble)*, *Sounds From The Free-Thinking* (Monk/Mingus Ensemble) with

guest trumpet soloist and former Mingus band member Ted Curson, *Music From the Sacred Concerts of Edward Kennedy Ellington* (Concert Jazz Ensemble and Chapel Choir), *What's Going On?* (Ensemble X), *Mosaic* (Concert Jazz Ensemble & Hard Bop Ensemble), *The Sacred Concert Music of Duke Ellington* (Concert Jazz Ensemble, Glee Club and Gospel Ensemble), *Mean What You Say* (Concert Jazz Ensemble), and *7 Steps 2 Heaven* (Concert Jazz Ensemble).

The Conductor

Anthony D.J. Branker is Senior Lecturer in Music and Conductor of University Jazz Ensembles at Princeton University, where he also serves as Associate Director of the Program in Musical Performance. In 2005, he was named a U.S. Fulbright Scholar and visiting professor at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre in Tallinn, Estonia. Professor Branker has also served on the faculties of the Manhattan School of Music, Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts, Hunter College of the City University of New York, Ursinus College, the New Jersey Summer Arts Institute, and was visiting lecturer and composer for the Socrates/Erasmus Intensive Programme in cooperation with the European Union, the Association of Baltic Academies of Music, and the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. He has been honored by the United States Department of Education with a Presidential Scholars Teacher Recognition Award, the Institute for Arts and Humanities Education Distinguished Teaching Award, the International Association of Jazz Educators Award for Outstanding Service to Jazz Education, and was the recipient of the 2004 Alumni Award presented by the Association of Black Princeton Alumni.

As a composer, Branker has received composition prizes, commissions, served as composer-in-residence, and has had his music featured in performance at the Pori International Jazz Festival (Finland), St. Petersburg International Jazz Festival (Russia), Kaunas International Jazz Festival (Lithuania), Mt. Fuji International Jazz Festival (Japan), Estonia International Jazz Festival (Estonia), JVC Jazz Festival (New York); concert and club appearances in France and Germany; as well as in performance at such venues as the Iridium Jazz Club, Sweet Basil Jazz Club, The Five Spot, New York's Symphony Space, the Fez under the Time Café, Trumpets Jazz Club, Estonian Academy of Music, and the Schomberg Center for Research in Black Culture. During his residency at the Estonian Academy of Music, Branker composed *The Eesti Jazz Suite*, a five-movement work inspired by the culture and people of Estonia. This work was premiered in November of 2006 at the academy of music as part of the concert tour of the Princeton University Jazz Composers Collective, which was sponsored by the Department of State of the United States, the U.S. Embassy in Estonia, and the Estonian Academy of Music. Professor Branker also leads the group *Ascent*, a jazz collective formed in 2004 dedicated to the performance of original new music by its founder, which has featured some of the most significant jazz artists working today, including Steve Wilson, Ralph Bowen, Antonio Hart, Bryan Carrott, Clifford Adams, Conrad Herwig, Jonny King, Belden Bullock, John Benitez, Ralph Peterson Jr., Renato Thoms, and Wilby Fletcher. The ensemble's first CD project *Anthony Branker & Ascent: Spirit Songs* was released internationally in 2006 on the Sons of Sound record label and was cited by the Jazz Journalists Association as one of the "Top

10 new jazz releases for 2006” with the composition “Imani (Faith)” being named one of the “Top 10 best new compositions of the year.” This recording is available through Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Borders Books & Music, Tower Records, J&R Music, Best Buy, and iTunes. The group’s second CD, *Blessings*, is scheduled to be released in 2008.

As a trumpeter, Branker has performed and recorded with the *Spirit of Life Ensemble* – including a five-year residency at New York’s internationally renowned Sweet Basil jazz club, and has performed at a variety of festivals, concert halls and clubs in the United States and internationally. He has worked in a variety of musical settings with such artists as Ted Curson, Talib Kibwe, Guilherme Franco & Nova Bossa Nova, Steve Nelson, Michael Cochrane, Calvin Hill, Eddie Henderson, Stanley Jordan, Benny Carter, Ralph Peterson, Terence Blanchard, Big John Patton, Roscoe Mitchell, Rick Margitza, Gary Burton, the R&B group *Tavarez*, and has performed in the critically acclaimed Off-Broadway production of *Dinah Was: The Dinah Washington Musical*.

Mr. Branker has appeared as guest jazz conductor with the *Jugend Sinfonie Orchester* (Bremen, Germany), Israel’s *Kiryat Ono Symphonic Youth Band*, Japan’s *Fukui Junior Orchestra*, *Estonian Academy of Music Big Band* (Tallinn, Estonia), *Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts Jazz Ensemble*, *New Jersey IAJE Intercollegiate All State Jazz Ensemble*, *New Jersey IAJE High School Region II All State Jazz Ensemble*, and has led performances that have featured the *Princeton University Orchestra*, *Chapel Choir*, *Glee Club/Concert Choir*, and *Gospel Ensemble*. While at Princeton, Mr. Branker has directed two national award-winning jazz groups, including the *Monk/Mingus Ensemble*, winner of the *Down Beat* magazine Student Music Award for “Best Jazz Instrumental Group,” and *Ensemble X*, recipient of a 2003 *Down Beat* music award for “Outstanding Performance.”

Professor Branker has received fellowships or grants from the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board/Council for International Exchange of Scholars, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Rutgers Institute of Jazz Studies, Princeton University, and Ursinus College. He has appeared as a lecturer for the Department of Pop & Jazz Music at Helsinki Polytechnic Stadia in Helsinki, Finland; Kuressaare Music Academy on the Estonian island of Saaremaa; the Pop/Jazz Program at Viljandi Kultuuriakadeemia Muusikamajas in Viljandi, Estonia; National Endowment for the Humanities Paul Robeson Institute at Rutgers University; the Princeton University Alumni College Seminar “New Orleans: City of Jazz” in New Orleans, Louisiana; the Plexus Institute; Drew University; and has served as program scholar for the *Looking At: Jazz, America’s Art Form* film viewing and discussion series at the Princeton Public Library. Professor Branker is a member of the board of directors of the New Jersey Chapter of the International Association for Jazz Education and the Princeton Symphony Orchestra, in addition to serving on the advisory board of MIMA Music, Inc.

Mr. Branker holds a Master of Education from Columbia University, Teachers College; a Master of Music in Jazz Pedagogy from the University of Miami; and a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Certificate in African-American Studies from Princeton University. He is currently working towards his Doctorate in Education at Columbia University, Teachers College.